

HOUSE RESOLUTION 54

By Hackworth

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Scott Molony, 2006 winner of the Siemens Competition in Math, Science, and Technology.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those students who, through their natural talents and unflagging commitment to academic excellence, have distinguished themselves both in the classroom and on a national scale; and

WHEREAS, Scott J. Molony is one such exceptional student who was recently crowned as a winner of the prestigious Siemens Competition in Math, Science, and Technology; and

WHEREAS, the competition, held at New York University, is viewed as the nation's premiere high school science research competition and is the signature program of the Siemens Foundation, a national leader in math and science education which annually provides nearly \$2 million in scholarships and awards; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Molony and his team, comprised of fellow Oak Ridge High School seniors Steven Arcangeli and Scott Horton, were crowned in a fitting recognition of their many hours of hard work and inspired research on behalf of their project; and

WHEREAS, after submitting their research project, entitled "Linking Supercomputing and Systems Biology for Efficient Bioethanol Production" and detailing processes by which bacteria can be modified to turn plant material into ethanol fuel, the team's members won the regional competition before garnering worldwide recognition in their capture of the national grand prize; and

WHEREAS, dubbed "The Oak Ridge Boys" by the judges, Mr. Molony and his team were presented the award by United States Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings and have garnered the highest levels of praise from Oak Ridge School Superintendent Tom Bailey,

Oak Ridge High School Principal Chuck Carringer, and team teacher and Math Thesis instructor Dr. Benita Albert; and

WHEREAS, the teammates were guided in their scientific research, which was undertaken at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory during many 40-hour work weeks last summer, by mentors Dr. Nagiza Samatova, Chris Symons, Dr. Byung-Hoony Park, and Dr. Tatiana Karpinets; and

WHEREAS, the winning research project is so promising that the Oak Ridge National Laboratory received an \$800,000 grant to continue research into the team's methods for engineering biofuel; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his notable work in the lab, Mr. Molony is also a member of the Oak Ridge High School cross country team, serves as Editor-in-Chief of the school's literary magazine, and is a varsity member of the Scholars Bowl Academic Team; and

WHEREAS, Scott's noteworthy achievement is a tremendous source of pride for his family, his school, and his community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Molony's dedication to excellence is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby recognize Scott J. Molony, congratulating him upon his capture of the national championship of the Siemens Competition in Math, Science, and Technology, commending him for his unwavering dedication in the pursuit of excellence, and offering our highest praises on behalf of his preeminent scientific success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend to Mr. Molony our best wishes for his continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.